

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: IO/SCT: MR. GALANTO

APPROVED BY: IO: MR. KAHN

NEA/INS: MR. LORTON

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TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

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FOLLOWING REPEAT COLOMBO 1393 ACTION SECSTATE INFO DACCA
ISLAMBAD KATHMANDU NEW DELHI 21 MAY 74

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CE, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION

REF:NEW DELHI 6595

1. SO FAR GSL HAS ISSUED NO PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING
INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. PRESS HAS CARRIED REPORTS OF
REACTIONS OF OTHER COUNTRIES PROMINENTLY BUT IN COMPLETELY
STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER.

2. AMBIVALENT EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED
CEYLON DAILY NEWS MAY 20 MAY INDICATE UNCERTAINTY WITH
WHICH GSL VIEWS THIS DEVELOPMENT. EDITORIAL NOTES THAT
ON ONE HAND NUCLEAR TEST IS AGAINST INDIAN TRADITIONS OF
PACIFICISM AND GANDHIAN IDEALS. OPPOSED TO THIS ARE
REQUIREMENTS OF "REALPOLITIK WHERE MIGHT ALWAYS HAS
THE EDGE ON RIGHT AND NUCLEAR STATUS BESTOWS ON A
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NATION CERTAIN PRESTIGE AND INGINES RESPECT HOWEVER

GRUDGING...". EDITORIAL GIVES SHORT SHRIFT TO INDIAN ARGUMENT THAT NUCLEAR TEST IS ONLY MEANT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND VIEWS DECISION TO EXPLODE NUCLEAR DEVICE AS DEMONSTRATION OF INFLUENCE OF INDIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT WHICH FEELS "IT MUST MATCH CHINA, IF NOT IN EFFECTIVE MILITARY CAPACITY, AT LEAST IN NUCLEAR STATUS".

3. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE GSL WILL MAKE NO COMMENT ON INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST IN KEEPING WITH ITS GENERAL APPROACH OF AVOIDING PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS ON EVENTS OVER WHICH IT HAS NO INFLUENCE. EXPLOSION COULD, HOWEVER, INCREASE LATENT CEYLONESE FEARS OF INDIA AND REINFORCE CEYLONESE SUSPECIONS OF INDIAN INTENTIONS.
VAN HOLLEN UNQTE RUSH

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